

LOG OF MEETING

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4 MAR 1994

SUBJECT: Meeting with Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) to discuss product safety issues, various UL standards, and to discuss CPSC recommendations and UL plans for revising standards or developing new ones.

DATE: February 16 & 17, 1994

PLACE: East/West Towers
Bethesda, MD.

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: A. Albert Biss, ESEE *aw*

LOG ENTRY DATE: February 22, 1994

COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS: A. Albert Biss, James Bradley, William West, William King, Jr. and other CPSC staff

NON-COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS:

o **Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.:**

Donald Mader, Vice President - Engineering

Jim Beyreis, Vice President & Chief Engineer

Keith Mowry, Manager Government Affairs,

Dave Hataaja, (replacement for Keith Mowry)

o **Others:**

Stephen Vastagh, Project Manager, National Electrical
Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

Saul Rosenbaum, Vice President Research, Leviton Mfg Co, Inc.

Rick Schaffer, Editor, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The topics discussed at the meeting are shown in the attached agenda schedule. Fourteen (14) topics concerned with product safety issues, projects and standards were discussed over one and a half days.

Commission Chairman Jacqueline Jones-Smith welcomed the attendees at 1:00 PM, the time scheduled to start the meeting on the first day. The Chairman expressed her appreciation for some of the important achievements accomplished in past years by the exchange of technical information.

Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall and Executive Director Eric Peterson greeted the participants on the second meeting day.

UL furnished 25 copies of the Briefing Book to CPSC approximately two weeks before the meeting. Included in the Briefing Book were topic summaries prepared by CPSC staff.

As in past years, substantive results in several product areas were obtained from the discussions as follow:

o **Microwave Ovens** - UL agreed to some of the remedial measures recommended by CPSC staff for minimizing the electrocution hazard

associated with the repair and maintenance of microwave ovens. The measures included electrical charge dissipation and more explicit labeling on the back cover. UL's Industry Advisory Conference (IAC) concurrence will be required for adoption of proposed changes.

- o **Mis-wired GFCIs** - UL suggested adoption of NEMA's proposal of an adhesive label for preventing "mis-wiring" of receptacle-type GFCIs. The label would contain installation instructions and would be applied across the GFCI load terminals. UL plans to issue a bulletin announcing the proposal with a six month effective date.

In addition, CPSC staff submitted sketches of six GFCI models to illustrate the differences in terminal markings and configurations and proposed two steps for making GFCIs more user friendly: (1) standardized terminal markings and more readable test instructions, and (2) standardized "hot" and "neutral" terminal positions.

Another staff concern is identification of wires in the outlet box containing more than one pair of wires when replacing a receptacle outlet with a GFCI. Similarly, in new construction, power may not be available for determining the "hot" wire pair or for testing the GFCI.

Regarding the "Fail-Safe" issue, UL reported that producing a new generation GFCI with self testing features does not appear feasible due to its high cost which would reduce the rate of GFCI installations in homes.

- o **Home Electrical System Fires Project** - UL expressed interest in participating in various CPSC activities associated with this project. This would include participation in home inspections and promulgation of the proposed NFPA 73 - Residential Electrical Maintenance Code.

- o **Heat Tapes** - UL reported on an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from UL, CSA, CPSC, and manufacturers which met several times to work on a draft standard to harmonize with CSA. UL plans to propose a Standard for comment in early 1995.

- o **Smoke Detectors** - UL provided updates on various program activities including: a new project for analyzing fire gases, revision of transient test section of UL 217, Smoke Detectors, proposal of a survivability test, and other possible changes including revision of corrosion test, provision for an automatic test, and disallowance of pressure contacts for horns. UL plans to submit proposed changes to the industry at the conclusion of the CPSC project.

- o **Carbon Monoxide Detectors** - in response to CPSC staff request, UL provided a list of eight carbon monoxide detector models that comply with UL 2034 requirements and three others

that are currently being investigated.

o **UL Topics** - UL initiated topic presentations on **Holographic Labels, Receptacle Retention Tester, Wood Stoves, and Thermal Cutoffs**. These are briefly summarized as follows:

UL showed samples of its holographic label on a silver foil base specially designed to deter would-be counterfeiters.

UL plans to prepare a draft proposal for a receptacle outlet retention tester which will be discussed at an ad hoc committee meeting tentatively scheduled for June 1, 1994. UL expects to issue a bulletin for industry comment by early December, 1994.

UL expressed interest in reviewing CPSC and NIST reports including the CPSC/NIST interagency agreement regarding indoor air pollutants from wood burning stoves.

UL proposed the following three items for action by the IAC for UL 1082 (Household Electric Coffeemakers): (1) that drip-type coffeemakers be required to use two thermal cutoffs with a CH (Conductive Heat) rating, (2) a Conductive Heat Aging Test (CHAT) for all thermal cutoffs rated (T_F) 175°C or above, and (3) harmonization of UL 1020, Thermal Cutoffs, with IEC 691, Thermal Links.

Other CPSC product safety concerns and standards discussed at the meeting are being reviewed to determine appropriate follow-up action.